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Featured Bookshelf: 2018 Hispanic Heritage Month

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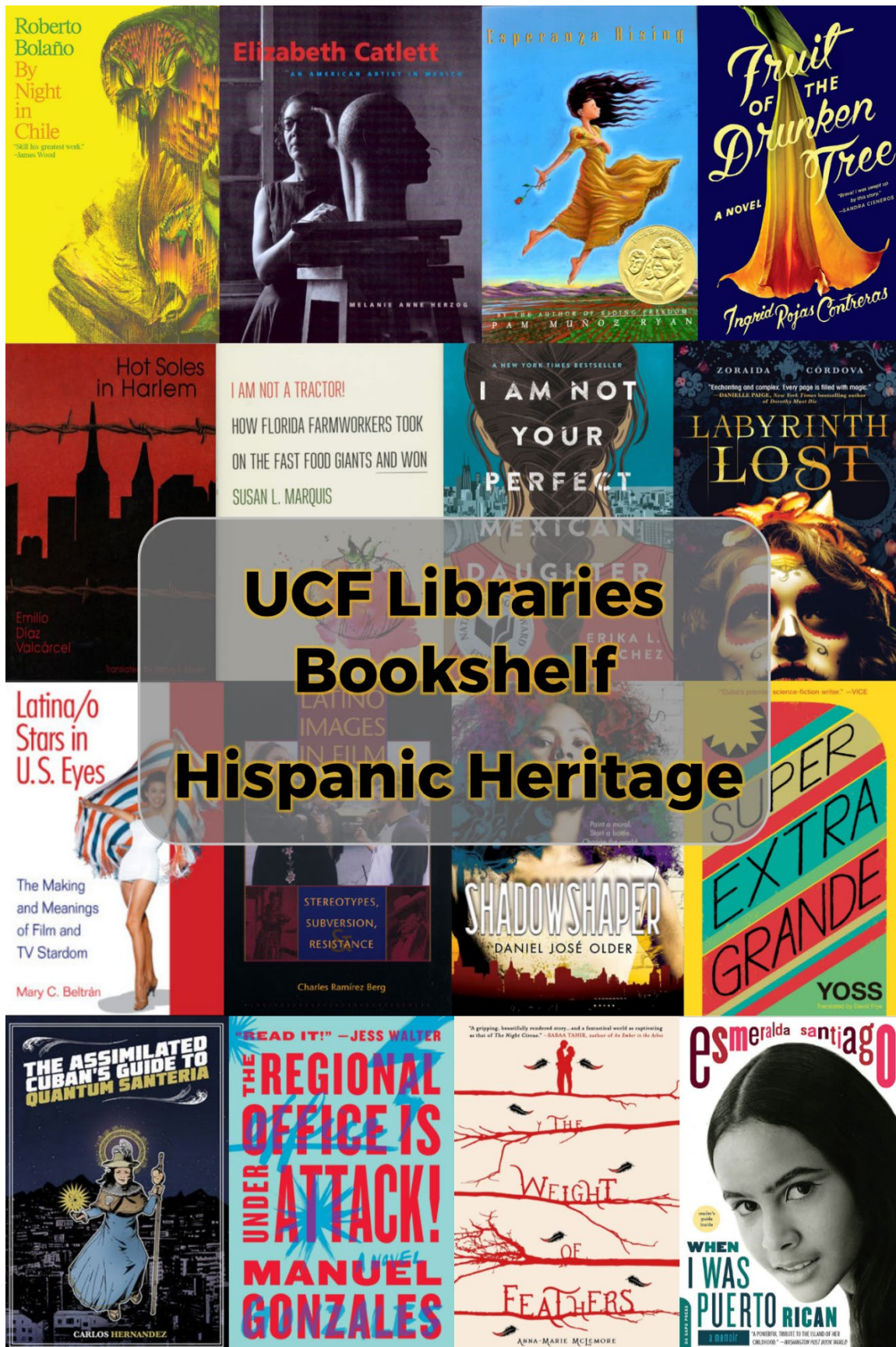
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Hispanic Heritage Month, established in 1988, runs from September 15 through October 15. It recognizes and celebrates the contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans have made to the United States. Florida in particular has a strong Hispanic legacy including the oldest inhabited city in the U.S., St. Augustine, which was founded in 1565 by the Spanish. Later this fall, UCF will celebrate our new status as a Hispanic-serving institution which means more than 25% of our enrolled students identify as Hispanic.

Join the UCF Libraries as we celebrate our favorite Hispanic authors and books. Keep reading to see the full list, descriptions, and catalog links for the featured Back-so-School titles suggested by UCF Library employees. These 14 books plus many more are also on display on the 2nd (main) floor of the John C. Hitt Library next to the bank of two elevators.

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By Night in Chile by Roberto Bolaño

As through a crack in the wall, *By Night in Chile*'s single night-long rant provides a terrifying, clandestine view of the strange bedfellows of Church and State in Chile. This wild, eerily compact novel—Roberto Bolaño's first work available in English—recounts the tale of a poor boy who wanted to be a poet, but ends up a half-hearted Jesuit priest and a conservative literary critic, a sort of lap dog to the rich and powerful cultural elite, in whose villas he encounters Pablo Neruda and Ernst Junger. Father Urrutia is offered a tour of Europe by agents of Opus Dei (to study "the disintegration of the churches," a journey into realms of the surreal); and ensnared by this plum, he is next assigned—after the destruction of Allende—the secret, never-to-be-disclosed job of teaching Pinochet, at night, all about Marxism, so the junta generals can know their enemy. Soon, searingly, his memories go from bad to worse.

Suggested by Sandy Avila, Research & Information Services

Elizabeth Catlett: An American artist in Mexico by Melanie Anne Herzog

In tracing Catlett's long and continuing career as a graphic artist and sculptor in Mexico, Herzog explores an important period in Catlett's life between the 1950s and the 1970s about which almost nothing is known in the United States. She examines the "Mexicanness" in Catlett's work in its fluent relationship to the underlying and constant sense of African American identity she brought with her to Mexico. Herzog's solidly grounded interpretation offers a new way to understand Catlett's work and reveals this artist as a fascinating and pivotal intercultural figure whose powerful art manifests her firm belief that the visual arts can play a role in the construction of a meaningful identity, both transnational and ethnically grounded.

Suggested by Peggy Nuhn, UCF Connect

Esperanza Rising by Pam Muñoz Ryan

Esperanza thought she'd always live with her family on their ranch in Mexico--she'd always have fancy dresses, a beautiful home, and servants. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California during the Great Depression, and to settle in a camp for Mexican farm workers. Esperanza isn't ready for the hard labor, financial struggles, or lack of acceptance she now faces. When their new life is threatened, Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances--Mama's life, and

her own, depend on it.

Suggested by Peggy Nuhn, UCF Connect

[Fruit of the Drunken Tree](#) by Ingrid Contrearras

Inspired by the author's own life, and told through the alternating perspectives of the willful Chula and the achingly hopeful Petrona, *Fruit of the Drunken Tree* contrasts two very different, but inextricably linked coming-of-age stories. In lush prose, Rojas Contreras has written a powerful testament to the impossible choices women are often forced to make in the face of violence and the unexpected connections that can blossom out of desperation.

Suggested by Sara Duff, Acquisitions & Collections

[Hot soles in Harlem](#) by Emilio Díaz Valcarcel

Gerardo Sanchez is not the average Puerto Rican immigrant to New York City: he is ironically blessed with blond hair and blue eyes, fair skin, and the good fortune to have met Aleluya, an intrepid guide to the "New Yorkian" world, on his first day in the city. Gerardo's contact with this mysterious intellectual - whose comings and goings are always surrounded by explosions - takes him into the slums of Harlem, the penthouses of Fifth Avenue, and the intellectual circles of New York. Guided by Aleluya, Gerardo meets characters from all walks of life - an unscrupulous restaurant inspector, an Alabaman bartender named Dutch, and Moira, a bewitching Greek model. His experiences unfold in a curious mixture of Spanish and English, punctuated by the sounds of immigrant voices creating dynamic new forms of expression. Published for the first time in English translation, *Hot Soles in Harlem* is a tribute to the creative power of New York City and the rich and diverse life it sustains.

Suggested by Megan Haught, Teaching & Engagement/Research & Information Services

[I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter](#) by Erika L. Sanchez

When the sister who delighted their parents by her faithful embrace of Mexican culture dies in a tragic accident, Julia, who longs to go to college and move into a home of her own, discovers from mutual friends that her sister may not have been as perfect as believed.

Suggested by Emma Gisclair, Curriculum Materials Center

[I am not a tractor!: how Florida farmworkers took on the fast food giants and won](#) by Susan L. Marquis

I Am Not a Tractor! celebrates the courage, vision, and creativity of the farmworkers and community leaders who have transformed one of the worst agricultural situations in the United States into one of the best. Susan L. Marquis highlights past abuses workers suffered in Florida's tomato fields: toxic pesticide exposure, beatings, sexual assault, rampant wage theft, and even, astonishingly, modern-day slavery. Marquis unveils how, even without new legislation, regulation, or government participation, these farmworkers have dramatically improved their work conditions. Marquis credits this success to the immigrants from Mexico, Haiti, and Guatemala who formed the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, a neuroscience major who takes great pride in the watermelon crew he runs, a leading farmer/grower who was once homeless, and a retired New York State judge who volunteered to stuff envelopes and ended up building a groundbreaking institution. Through the Fair Food Program that they have developed, fought for, and implemented, these people have changed the lives of more than thirty thousand field workers.

Suggested by Megan Haught, Teaching & Engagement/Research & Information Services

Labyrinth Lost by Zoraida Cordova

The only way to get her family back is to travel to a land in between, as dark as Limbo and as strange as Wonderland. Alex is a bruja, the most powerful witch in a generation...and she hates magic. At her Deathday celebration, Alex performs a spell to rid herself of her power. But it backfires. Her whole family vanishes into thin air, leaving her alone with Nova, a brujo boy she's not sure she can trust, but who may be Alex's only chance at saving her family.

Suggested by Sara Duff, Acquisitions & Collections

Latina/o Stars in U.S. Eyes: the makings and meanings of film and TV stardom by Mary C. Beltrán

This book explores the role film and television stardom has played in establishing, reinforcing, and challenging popular ethnic notions of Latina/os in the United States since the silent film era of the 1920s. In addition to documenting the importance of Latina and Latino stars to American film and television history, Mary C. Beltrán focuses on key moments in the construction of "Hollywood Latinidad" by analyzing the public images of these stars as promoted by Hollywood film studios, television networks, producers, and the performers themselves. Critically surveying the careers of such film and television stars as Dolores Del Rio, Desi Arnaz, Rita Moreno, Freddie Prinze, Edward James Olmos, Jessica Alba, and Jennifer Lopez, *Latina/o Stars in U.S. Eyes* also addresses the impact of the rise in Latina and Latino media producers and the current status of Latina/o stardom.

Suggested by Richard Harrison, Research & Information Services

Latino Images in Film: stereotypes, subversion, resistance by Charles Ramirez Berg

The bandido, the harlot, the male buffoon, the female clown, the Latin lover, and the dark lady—these have been the defining, and demeaning, images of Latinos in U.S. cinema for more than a century. In this book, Charles Ramírez Berg develops an innovative theory of stereotyping that accounts for the persistence of such images in U.S. popular culture. He also explores how Latino actors and filmmakers have actively subverted and resisted such stereotyping.

Suggested by Richard Harrison, Research & Information Services

Shadowshaper by Daniel José Older

Sierra Santiago planned an easy summer of making art and hanging out with her friends. But then a corpse crashes their first party. Her stroke-ridden grandfather starts apologizing over and over. And when the murals in her neighborhood begin to weep tears... Well, something more sinister than the usual Brooklyn ruckus is going on. With the help of a fellow artist named Robbie, Sierra discovers shadowshaping, a magic that infuses ancestral spirits into paintings, music, and stories. But someone is killing the shadowshapers one by one. Now Sierra must unravel her family's past, take down the killer in the present, and save the future of shadowshaping for generations to come.

Suggested by Emma Gisclair, Curriculum Materials Center

Super Extra Grande by Yoss

In a distant future in which Latin Americans have pioneered faster-than-light space travel, Dr. Jan Amos

Sangan Dongo has a job with large and unusual responsibilities: he's a veterinarian who specializes in treating enormous alien animals. Mountain-sized amoebas, multisex species with bizarre reproductive processes, razor-nailed, carnivorous humanoid hunters: Dr. Sangan has seen it all. When a colonial conflict threatens the fragile peace between the galaxy's seven intelligent species, he must embark on a daring mission through the insides of a gigantic creature and find two swallowed ambassadors—who also happen to be his competing love interests.

Suggested by Megan Haught, Teaching & Engagement/Research & Information Services

The Assimilated Cuban's Guide to Quantum Santeria by Carlos Hernandez

Assimilation is founded on surrender and being broken. This collection of short stories features people who have assimilated, but are actively trying to reclaim their lives. There is a concert pianist who defies death by uploading his soul into his piano. There is the person who draws his mother's ghost out of the bullet hole in the wall near where she was executed. Another character has a horn growing out of the center of his forehead--punishment for an affair. But he is too weak to end it, too much in love to be moral.

Suggested by Sara Duff, Acquisitions & Collections

The Regional Office is Under Attack! by Manuel Gonzales

When a prophecy suggests that an insider might bring about the downfall of a powerful underground organization known as the Regional Office, devoted recruit Sarah and young assassin Rose find their respective lives clashing in a dispute that threatens everything they know.

Suggested by Sara Duff, Acquisitions & Collections

The Weight of Feathers by Anna-Marie McLemore

For twenty years, the Palomas and the Corbeaus have been rivals and enemies, locked in an escalating feud for over a generation. Both families make their living as traveling performers in competing shows--the Palomas swimming in mermaid exhibitions, the Corbeaus, former tightrope walkers, performing in the tallest trees they can find. Lace Paloma may be new to her family's show, but she knows as well as anyone that the Corbeaus are pure magia negra, black magic from the devil himself. Simply touching one could mean death, and she's been taught from birth to keep away. But when disaster strikes the small town where both families are performing, it's a Corbeau boy, Cluck, who saves Lace's life. And his touch immerses her in the world of the Corbeaus, where falling for him could turn his own family against him, and one misstep can be just as dangerous on the ground as it is in the trees.

Suggested by Emma Gisclair, Curriculum Materials Center

When I was Puerto Rican by Esmeralda Santiago

In a childhood full of tropical beauty and domestic strife, poverty and tenderness, Esmeralda Santiago learned the proper way to eat a guava, the sound of tree frogs, the taste of morcilla, and the formula for ushering a dead baby's soul to heaven. But when her mother, Mami, a force of nature, takes off to New York with her seven, soon to be eleven children, Esmeralda, the oldest, must learn new rules, a new language, and eventually a new identity. In the first of her three acclaimed memoirs, Esmeralda brilliantly recreates her tremendous journey from the idyllic landscape and tumultuous family life of her earliest years, to translating for her mother at the welfare office, and to high honors at Harvard.

Suggested by Sandy Avila, Research & Information Services

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